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Contents

		Page
1.	Association for the Prevention of Torture	2
2.	International Service for Human Rights	3
3.	Lutheran World Federation	5
4.	Peace Education Foundation	7
5.	Solar Cookers International	9
6.	World Veterans Federation	11

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1. Association for the Prevention of Torture

(Special consultative status granted in 1996)

The Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) is an independent non-governmental organization based in Geneva, where it was founded in 1977 by local lawyer and banker Mr. Jean-Jacques Gautier. Its primary objective is to prevent torture and other forms of ill treatment throughout the world. To achieve this, APT is committed to:

- Encouraging the adoption and respect of norms and standards banning torture and combating impunity
- Promoting preventive control mechanisms, such as visits to places of detention by independent experts
- Organizing training for national human rights institutions, NGOs, judiciary and State authorities that are in direct contact with detainees, such as police and prison staff.

APT remains focused on the prevention of torture. This means that APT does not publish public reports on torture in particular countries, nor does it advocate nor protest on individual cases of torture. This is the job of other human rights organizations. The advantage of the particular focus on prevention is that APT can offer a real and useful expertise and can work directly with State authorities in countries that are sincere about wanting to prevent torture but where authorities are wary about working with NGOs that may publicly criticize them.

APT operates in partnership with international and national NGOs, national human rights institutions and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. It is a member of the Coalition of International NGOs Against Torture (CINAT).

APT operates in all regions of the world through its two thematic programmes and three regional programmes, each of which operate projects relating to the above-mentioned objectives of the organization.

Participation in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies

The most significant contribution made to the Council and its subsidiary bodies, in the period 2000 to 2003, was in the successful drafting and adoption of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture, which was adopted by the General Assembly in December 2002. APT contributed comprehensive textual proposals to the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights that had been requested to draft a text (including by the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights). In close coordination with Costa Rica and Switzerland, APT organized cross-regional diplomatic and NGO preparatory meetings to foster the best consensus possible on the Protocol, which essentially is designed to assist States parties to the Convention in better implementing their commitment to prevent torture.

APT has given a particular focus to promote more debate on the follow-up to the recommendations made by the Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur on torture, especially after a visit to a country. For example, in 2003

APT organized a meeting of relevant Brazilian NGOs to enable them to compile a report on what had happened to the Rapporteur's report on how to combat torture in Brazil. The Brazilian NGO report was submitted to the Rapporteur, which allowed him to transmit to the Brazilian authorities as a basis to discussion on follow-up to the previous recommendations

In order for the Committee against Torture, to be able to enter into serious dialogue about States parties' implementation of their obligations, it welcomes alternative reports from international and national NGOs. In order to help the latter group of NGOs, APT has published guidelines, in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Bahasa (Indonesian) to advise NGOs on how they can submit information to the Committee.

APT has started to increase its cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the prevention of torture. A good example of this was an international seminar on domestic visiting mechanisms, held in Geneva in July 2003.

2. International Service for Human Rights

(Special consultative status granted in 1991)

ISHR is an international non-governmental human rights organization based in Geneva, with a branch office in New York. It was created in 1984 to enable human rights defenders and victims of human rights violations to contribute actively and effectively to the promotion and protection of human rights by using the United Nations systems.

From the outset, ISHR has played a vital role in empowering human rights organizations and defenders worldwide, in particular through:

- Analytical studies and reports on international human rights law and mechanisms, in particular those of the United Nations;
- Training on how to use international and regional human rights standards and procedures;
- Strategic advice for effective lobbying and contributions to human rights standard setting;
- Practical information and logistical support to enable human rights defenders to take full advantage of international human rights procedures;
- Promoting the protection of human rights defenders.

During the reporting period, the Information Unit has continued to produce the *Human Rights Monitor*, a review of the major international human rights meetings; the "Info-Pack", a practical up-to-date package of information on all relevant United Nations meetings, lists for United Nations special rapporteurs, special representatives, independent experts, working groups, members of treaty bodies, and contact details of important NGOs and intergovernmental organizations; and the publication series entitled "HR-Documentation-DH", which provides supplementary information, including the voting records of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

In 2003, the ISHR web site was greatly developed by the Information Unit. It now provides extensive and timely information on United Nations and regional human rights systems to a wide range of users.

The Education and Training Unit is responsible for planning, preparing and implementing all ISHR training activities. The training combines theoretical explanations of international law, international relations and the international and regional human rights systems, with practical and strategic advice on how to use the United Nations, regional and national systems effectively.

The Unit organizes two core training programmes that focus on specific issues concerning regional and local organizations. During the reporting period, it has convened in-region training courses in Colombia, Croatia, Denmark, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, the Gambia, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Russia, Timor-Leste and Uganda.

ISHR established a human rights defenders office in October 2000 to respond better to the growing need for promoting the protection of human rights defenders worldwide. One of the main objectives of the Office has been to help disseminate and promote understanding and implementation of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The Office also supports and promotes the work of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders.

During the reporting period, HRDO has collaborated closely with the mandate of the Special Representative in Geneva, New York and in the regions, including promoting better understanding and use of the mandate by local and regional human rights defenders, by means of publications, training, specialized seminars, workshops and consultations.

A special focus of HRDO work has been the promotion of the development of regional mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders within existing regional human rights systems, mirroring the mandate and scope of action of the Special Representative. HRDO strongly promoted and was instrumental in the creation of a Special Unit for Human Rights Defenders by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, on 7 December 2001, and of a "focal point" on human rights defenders by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, on 20 November 2003. HRDO has also actively promoted cooperation and coordination between the international human rights system and the regional systems in Africa and the Americas, by organizing meetings with the Special Representative, the Organization of American States and its Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in November 2001 and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in May 2002.

During the reporting period, the New York office drafted summaries and reviews of the major international human rights meetings taking place in New York. The summaries and reviews provide clear, analytical and easily accessible information on current developments concerning human rights at the United Nations. The *Human Rights Monitor* is distributed around the world to human rights activists, NGOs, national human rights organizations and diplomats, in particular those directly involved or working with intergovernmental organizations on human rights issues.

Through collaboration with other human rights NGOs and United Nations agencies and secretariat (including OHCHR and the Division for the Advancement of Women) the NY office has organized informational briefing sessions for civil society and human rights defenders on the international and regional human rights system, including lunchtime briefings on the international human rights system for indigenous peoples during the sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and a lunchtime briefing on the work of the United Nations independent expert on the right to development for NGOs, United Nations agencies and government delegates.

3. Lutheran World Federation

(Special consultative status granted in 1952)

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is a global communion of Christian churches of the Lutheran tradition. LWF acts on behalf of its member churches in areas of common interest, such as ecumenical and inter-faith relations, theology, humanitarian assistance, human rights, communication, and various aspects of mission and development work. The LWF secretariat is located in Geneva, and presently employs 82 people from a wide range of national backgrounds. LWF operates field programmes providing emergency relief, refugee support and development cooperation in some 37 countries. The staff of the LWF's field programmes globally currently number approximately 5,850, the vast majority of them locally employed.

Participation in United Nations meetings

- Annual and special sessions of the Commission on Human Rights. LWF delivered oral statements and held parallel events relevant to the work of the Commission on such topics as economic globalization and human rights, the right to development, refugee rights, racism and racial discrimination and the right to water. On behalf of the CONGO Special Committee on Human Rights, LWF has also regularly convened parallel events on such topics as NGO accountability, the rules for NGO participation in the Commission, and provided general guidance to NGO representatives attending Commission sessions.
- Annual sessions of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, including the preparation of oral statements and parallel events on such topics as economic globalization and human rights, extreme poverty, racism and racial discrimination and refugee rights, as well as briefings for NGO representatives.
- Annual sessions of the Commission on Social Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development, as part of NGO caucuses and ecumenical teams.
- Twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly.
- World Conference against Racism and its preparatory process and some of the follow-up processes.

- Inaugural session of the Social Forum (26 July and 2 August 2002), on the theme "Relationship between poverty reduction and the realization of the right to food".
- Special session of the General Assembly on children, held in New York from 8 to 10 May 2002.
- Civil society meetings on 15 and 16 October 2003 in preparation for UNCTAD XI.
- World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003.

Collaboration with specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies

- In January 2003, LWF signed an agreement with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to receive a substantial grant in support of the LWF multi-country action plan on HIV/AIDS. In its work on HIV/AIDS, the LWF also cooperates with UNAIDS at various levels, including through the UNAIDS partnership unit in Geneva, and at the level of the various country offices. In addition, LWF cooperates with WHO in its "3x5" initiative.
- In 2001, LWF signed a global memorandum of understanding with UNHCR. As of 2003, LWF is the second largest implementer of UNHCR funds worldwide. LWF is working with refugees in some 12 countries, focusing on care and maintenance in camps, and repatriation and reintegration. LWF cares for approximately 500,000 refugees annually. LWF has participated in each of the UNHCR Executive Committee and Standing Committee meetings during the period under review, as well as in the associated NGO consultations.
- Throughout the period, LWF continued to work with WFP under the terms of a memorandum of understanding signed in 1998. LWF cooperation with WFP entailed mainly food distribution to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), and management of food-for-work programmes.
- LWF also had several project-based agreements with FAO for the distribution of seeds and hand tools.
- LWF cooperation with UNICEF during the period under review, pursuant to project-based agreements, included water and sanitation projects, school construction projects and defining awareness-building projects.
- LWF has continued to enjoy good cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, mainly concerning IDP issues. In 2003, LWF took part in an OCHA inter-agency mission to the Sudan.
- Since UNDP serves as "resident coordinator" in many countries, LWF field programmes have engaged in regular liaison with UNDP representations in a number of countries. Since late 2003, LWF has undertaken the establishment and management of two camps in Liberia for the disarmament of militias and their reintegration into civilian life, in a programme funded by UNDP.
- LWF continued as an active member of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR) and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and through these associations was represented on the Inter-

Agency Standing Committee (IASC). In 2002, LWF participated in the IASC Task Force on Logistics following reports of sexual exploitation of refugees.

Indirect cooperation

- The LWF Council adopted a resolution in June 2000 inviting LWF member churches to "continue and deepen their efforts to promote mutual understanding and religious freedom for all", and encouraged them to acquaint themselves with United Nations and regional mechanisms for the promotion of religious freedom.
- LWF, as part of an ongoing programme of human rights training workshops, conducted a workshop for representatives of its member churches in the Asian region from 22 to 27 September 2000, on the theme "The human rights of the poor: the eradication of poverty as a human rights challenge".
- In October 2002, LWF facilitated a summit of over 100 religious leaders from all of the major faith traditions represented in Africa to develop a practical plan for inter-faith action for peace in Africa.
- LWF has cooperated, through its field programme in that country, with the Government of Mauritania in the preparatory process for the development of a national plan of action for human rights.
- LWF held an international consultation on the theme of "Anti-Semitism and anti-Judaism today" from 9 to 12 September 2001 in Dobogokö, Hungary, for representatives of its member churches throughout the world and their Jewish dialogue partners.

4. Peace Education Foundation

(Special consultative status granted in 1996)

The mission of the Peace Education Foundation is to educate children and adults in the dynamics of conflict and promote skills of peacemaking in our homes, schools, community, the nation and the world. We believe that conflict is a natural, unavoidable phenomenon that can be a constructive opportunity for positive change and empowerment. We believe in teaching children the skills they need to find creative and constructive ways to settle conflicts. We work with teachers and other adults so that they understand the importance of modelling this behaviour for children to learn. We believe that children learn best in a caring environment where their self-esteem is nurtured as they are challenged to become responsible decision makers. We believe that peace education encourages the emotional, intellectual, ethical and social growth of children within a framework of traditional values such as honesty, justice and responsibility. Our hope is that as children become adults and leaders they will implement these concepts as a part of their everyday being, so that conflicts whether at an individual level or a country level are dealt with non-violently.

The Peace Education Foundation achieves these aims through the development and publishing of curricula. We train teachers, youth group leaders, community leaders and professionals working with children in conflict resolution and

mediation. Our curricular materials are concrete tools for teaching and youth professionals to teach and model the essentials of conflict resolution, which are: community-building, understanding conflict, understanding the role of perception in a conflict, problem-solving and decision-making, the role of emotions and anger, and effective communication. Some of the life skills we teach are respect, cooperation, empathy, coping skills, perspective taking, anger management, escalating factors, de-escalating skills, listening, I-statements, tolerance, diversity, and multicultural issues.

Since our last quadrennial report, we have continued our work in Colombia, Costa Rica and Jamaica. In addition to these peace education initiatives, the Peace Education Foundation has begun major projects in Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Venezuela. As a part of our work in Latin America, most of our materials have been translated into Spanish. In Colombia, the Peace Education Foundation established a sister organization. We have also continued to work with the Asociación Colombiana Para La Defensa Del Menor Maltratado, an advocacy organization against child abuse that also provides services for abused children. In Costa Rica, the Peace Education Foundation continued to partner with Fundación Paniamor. The model we developed with Paniamor has been chosen as a mechanism for violence prevention at a national level. Peace and Loving Schools Jamaica, (PALS Jamaica), our sister organization in Jamaica, has continued its work on the island. Both organizations continue to work together and share their experience.

We received a grant from the Adrian Dominican Sisters to work in Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). We are working in schools in the capital cities of each of those countries as well as in provincial cities and rural areas. Extensive training of teachers, youth professionals, civic, religious and community leaders has taken place over the past two years. Our role as an NGO in consultative status with the United Nations is prominent. In numerous cases, our local partners make and display United Nations banners. The participants of our workshops see themselves as "multiplicadores" (multipliers), so we see the extent of our reach as significant. At a recent follow-up workshop in Tucuman, Argentina, just one workshop participant estimated that she reached 2,500 individuals.

The Peace Education Foundation continues to work in other hemispheres but still to a much lesser extent. We continue to collaborate with the Centre for Conflict Resolution in South Africa. Representatives visited two children's conflict resolution centres in Northern Ireland. The Ministry of Education in the Kurdish part of Iraq requested permission to translate a programme entitled "Peacemaking skills for little kids". They saw this programme as critical for transforming their children's present "culture of war" into a "culture of peace" for the next generation.

The Peace Education Foundation was able to send a representative to one of the Department of Public Information conferences held annually in September. We have been unable to participate in more New York Headquarters activities for economic reasons.

Locally, the Peace Education Foundation is supportive of the United Nations Association. We have worked towards publicizing the UNICEF *State of the World's Children* reports. Peace Education Foundation membership continues to be mostly in the Western Hemisphere, the United States and Canada, and we are working in

Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Jamaica and Venezuela.

5. Solar Cookers International

(Special consultative status granted in 1996)

At the meetings described below, SCI provided input for outcome documents; gave briefings to government delegates and other NGOs on solar cooking (including literature and displays/demonstrations on solar cooking); organized or attended side events and associated meetings; and participated in NGO and stakeholders meetings, such as those of the NGO Energy and Climate Change Caucus.

2000

22 February-3 March: intersessional ad hoc working groups of the Commission on Sustainable Development

6-10 March: Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development, first session

24 April-8 May: eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

14-25 August: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, second session

6-10 September: Millennium Summit

21-24 November: Asia and Pacific High-Level Regional Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development (Bali, Indonesia, organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) in preparation for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

2001

January: Commission on Sustainable Development Energy and Climate Change Caucus NGO paper for the multi-stakeholder dialogues for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

26 February-2 March: Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development, second session

6-16 March: intersessional ad hoc working groups for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

16-27 April: the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Solar cookers were included in the intergovernmental outcome programme action document. SCI sponsored and spoke at a side event on the theme "Effective solar energy solutions for developing countries". Attended GEF meeting.

31 April-2 May: preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

6-8 June: Special session of the General Assembly to review and appraise the implementation of Habitat Agenda

11-22 June: United Nations Forum on Forests, first session

27-29 November: World Summit on Sustainable Development high-level Asia and Pacific regional preparatory meeting (Phnom Penh, Cambodia)

2002

16-17 January: World Summit on Sustainable Development brainstorming session

28 January-8 February: Commission on Sustainable Development acting as preparatory committee for the Summit

4-15 March: United Nations Forum on Forests, second session

25 March-5 April: Commission on Sustainable Development acting as preparatory committee for the Summit

8-10 May: Special session of the General Assembly on children

12-24 May: Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, first session

27 May-7 June: Preparatory committee for the Summit (Bali, Indonesia)

26 August-4 September: World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa). SCI representatives provided extensive displays and daily demonstrations of solar cooking

2003

24-26 March: Eleventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development informal consultations

28 April-9 May: Eleventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

11-23 May: Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, second session

29-30 October: General Assembly high-level dialogue on financing for development

Other activities

We also have representation at meetings in Geneva and Paris who attend and network with other NGOs on initiatives linked to solar cooking, including in the areas of violence, health, nutrition and microfinance.

In 2001, we completed a project co-funded by UNHCR, in which we had introduced solar cookers in Aisha Refugee Camp in Ethiopia and documented dramatic uptake by 94 per cent of families, use and reduction by half of fuelwood needed for cooking. In 2002, we completed a project introducing solar cookers in Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya, turning over ongoing provision of supplies to a refugee-run cooperative, SOCOCO. Here, too, we documented significant uptake compared to a much larger fuel-efficient stove promotion project. Solar cookers address all eight of the Millennium Development Goals.

6. World Veterans Federation

(General consultative status granted in 1952)

The World Veterans Federation is an organization grouping national associations or federations and international organizations of war veterans and victims of war, and persons having served in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The aims of the Federation are to promote international peace and security by the application of the United Nations Charter and the International Bill of Human Rights; to defend the spiritual and material interests of veterans and victims of war; to establish permanent relations between their organizations and encourage international cooperation and understanding.

Participation in the work of the Council

During the period under review, WVF attended all sessions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific; it also attended major United Nations meetings, such as the five-year reviews of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development, the World Conference against Racism, the Second World Assembly on Ageing and the special session of the General Assembly on children.

Written statements were submitted to:

- The substantive session of 1998 of the Council, on the situation of women and children in armed conflicts (E/1998/NGO/6);
- The Commission on the Status of Women on violence against women and children during and after armed conflicts (E/CN.6/1998/NGO/3); follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (E/CN.6/2000/NGO/6); gender and all forms of discrimination (E/CN.6/2001/NGO/6); and on gender equality, development and peace (E/CN.6/2002/NGO/5).

An oral statement was made at a hearing convened by the Economic Commission for Europe as a contribution to the report of the Secretary-General to the Millennium Assembly (Geneva, July 1999).

Expert advice was provided at the request of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to assist in the preparation of a report on conscientious objection to military service (July 2003).

Support provided to the United Nations

Since its establishment in 1950, WVF has been a fervent supporter of the United Nations. The preamble of the WVF Constitution quotes the aims and principles of the United Nations Charter, and WVF statutory aims include the application by the letter and spirit of the Charter.

During the period under review, two WVF general assemblies (in 2000 and 2003) adopted, among others, some 25 resolutions expressing either general support to the United Nations or calling for the implementation of Security Council or General Assembly resolutions in specific fields — security and peace; human, social

and economic development; racism and racial discrimination — or concerning the United Nations role in conflict areas (e.g., Afghanistan, Iraq, the Middle East). These resolutions were widely disseminated on the WVF web site, in publications and by national member associations. WVF also contributed to collective efforts of NGOs to support the United Nations in the framework of CONGO and its committees.

Consultation and cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat

WVF continues to maintain working relationships with senior United Nations officials in the areas of political affairs, peacekeeping operations, children and armed conflict, disarmament affairs, human rights, advancement of women, and cooperation with NGOs.